

# Lyman Lee Donnan & "Dolly" Beal

THIS BRIEF NARRATIVE IS A WORK IN PROGRESS. MOST OF THE DATES ARE EDUCATED GUESSES. THE RESORTS GEOGRAPHICAL LAYOUT IS CLOUDED BY THE PASSAGE OF TIME AND MY EARLY AGE WHEN LAST SEEN INTOTO.

LYDIA JEMIMAH BEAL (AKA DOLLY) WAS BORN IN CORYDON, IOWA IN 1871. SHE DIED IN UPLAND CALIF. OF A STROKE PRECIPITATED BY AN ILL-ADVISED CHANGE IN DIABETIC TREATMENT IN 1959.

IT IS WORTH NOTING HERE THAT MY GRANDMOTHER MANAGED DIABETES, INTO HER LATE 70'S, BY STRICT DIET AND VIGOROUS EXERCISE. ABOUT THE AGE OF 80 IT BECAME NECESSARY TO USE INJECTABLE INSULIN. A RECENTLY RETURNED BAPTIST MISSIONARY DOCTOR TOLD HER, AT AGE 89, TO STOP USING INSULIN. DOLLY'S DEATH CAME SHORTLY. HER REMAINS WERE PLACED IN A BURIAL VAULT IN RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA.

LYMAN LEE DONNAN WAS BORN IN ROLLA MISSOURI IN 1862. HE DIED OF A BROKEN HEART AND/OR THE LACK OF CONTINUOUS DIRECTIONS FROM GRANDMA IN 1960 IN UPLAND CALIFORNIA AT THE AGE OF 98. HIS REMAINS WERE PLACED IN A VAULT ALONGSIDE DOLLY'S IN RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA.

LYMAN'S FATHER, ANDREW, WAS A STERN PRESBYTERIAN SCOT AND A SLAVE OWNER. THEY WERE OF COURSE, LOYAL TO THE CONFEDERACY. LYMAN WAS ABOUT 6 FEET TALL AS AN ADULT. HE AND HIS BROTHERS HAD GREAT SHOCKS OF WHITE HAIR AS THEY GREW OLDER.

IN 1968 WHILE ATTENDING WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY DENTAL SCHOOL IN ST. LOUIS I VISITED DAVID DONNAN, LYMAN'S YOUNGEST BROTHER, IN ROLLA MO. DAVID WAS 94 YEARS OLD, WORE A WHITE DRESS SHIRT WITH TIE AND WAS PRACTICING HIS MID-IRON GOLF SHOTS ON HIS EXPANSIVE BACK YARD. THE FULL HEAD OF WHITE HAIR AS WELL AS MOUSTACHE. THE CRAAGY AND ROBUST DONNAN FACE SHOUTED OUT, "THAT'S MY MOMS FATHER, MY GRANDFATHER, STANDING IN FRONT OF ME". ALL THE BROTHERS LIVED LONG LIVES.

THE BEALS RAISED BEEF AND CORN IN THE SOUTH CENTRAL PART OF THE IOWA NEAR THE MISSOURI BORDER. THEY WERE A PROSPEROUS FAMILY AND DOLLY WAS REARED AS A PROPER YOUNG LADY. BUT, FROM THE STORIES I HEARD SHE WAS A LITTLE 'SPITFIRE'.

SHE MET LYMAN WHEN HE RETURNED FROM THE WEST BECAUSE HE HAD DEVELOPED 'CONSUMPTION'. HE TRULY WAS A SICK YOUNG MAN AT THIS TIME. HE WAS COUGHING BLOOD, HAD LOST A GREAT DEAL OF WEIGHT AND WAS IN NO CONDITION TO GO BACK INTO MINE ENGINEERING. (HE HAD GRADUATED FROM THE ROLLA SCHOOL OF MINES AND GONE TO ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO ON ASSIGNMENT WITH A MINING FIRM). IT'S MOST PROBABLE HE HAD DEVELOPED A 'SILICOSIS' FROM BREATHING ROCK DUST-FILLED AIR IN THE MINES.

THE DONNAN FAMILY SET UP A CLOTHING STORE IN CORYDON TO PROVIDE LYMAN SOME INCOME AND TIME TO GET WELL. WHEN DOLLY MET HIM AT THE STORE ALL PLANS FOR HER AS WELL AS LYMAN CHANGED. OVER THE YEARS OF LISTENING TO TALES I SENSED THIS CAUSED SOME DEEP FAMILY PAIN AND LONG LASTING ANGER. THEY MARRIED AND DECIDED TO TAKE THE DOCTOR'S ADVICE, "GO OUT WEST TO A MOUNTAIN TOP AND BREATHE CLEAN AIR". THE YEAR ABOUT 1892-93.

LYMAN AND DOLLY ARRIVED IN SALT LAKE CITY WITH A MODERATE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND LYMAN A VERY SICK YOUNG MAN. THEY PURCHASED A COVERED WAGON AND A LESS THAN VIGOROUS TEAM OF HORSES. THERE ARE STORIES ABOUT CAMPING ON SLIGHT ELEVATIONS SO THE TEAM COULD GET GOING BY PULLING DOWN THE HILL WHEN TIME TO MOVE ON OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS LYMAN AND DOLLY TRAVELED THROUGH PARTS OF COLORADO, ARIZONA, NEVADA AND MUCH OF UTAH. LYMAN WAS HEALING AND DOLLY WAS BECOMING A VERY STRONG WILLED AND CAPABLE PARTNER CARING FOR LYMAN, COOKING, SEEING TO THE HORSES AND DEALING WITH LIFE AND FOLKS OUT WEST.

TWO SUMMERS WERE SPENT IN PROVO CANYON BECAUSE IT WAS SO PRISTINE AND BEAUTIFUL. IT WAS A PERFECT PLACE TO GROW STRONG FOR LYMAN AND OFFERED DOLLY A CHALLENGE IT SETTING UP A HOME. GRANDPA USED TO TELL A STORY ABOUT RIDING ONE OF THE WAGON TEAM HORSES TO FISH THE PROVO RIVER. HE WOULD STAY MOUNTED BECAUSE IT WAS TOO TIRING TO FISH FROM THE BANK AND WALK. WHEN A TROUT WAS HOOKED THE HORSE WOULD PAW AT THE GROUND, WAKEN LYMAN AND HE WOULD REEL IT IN.

SOMETIME IN 1897-98 THEY 'HOMESTEADED' THE PROPERTY THAT WAS TO BECOME 'UPPER FALLS RESORT'. IT IS BEST TO DESCRIBE THE PERSONALITIES OF THE NEW OWNERS OF SUCH DELIGHTFUL ACRESAGE NOW: LYMAN, WHO LATER BECAME KNOWN AS LT. DONNAN, WAS A QUIET DREAMER WHO WOULD BE DIRECTED BY DOLLY IN ALMOST ALL FACETS OF LIFE. HE WAS WELL EDUCATED, ENJOYED MATH, GEOLOGY, READING THE BIBLE BUT MOST OF ALL, HE LOVED TO FISH.

DOLLY WAS THE ENGINE THAT DROVE AND DIRECTED THE EVENTUAL RESORT INTO EXISTENCE. SHE STOOD ABOUT 5 FEET TALL AND WORKED NIGHT AND DAY TO BUILD WHAT BEGAN AS A PLACE TO HAVE LUNCH FOR WORKERS CONSTRUCTING THE DENVER AND RIO GRAND RAILWAY UP PROVO CANYON. SHE SERVED CHICKEN AND FRESH TROUT TO THE WORKERS, TRAVELERS, VISITORS AND VACATIONERS FROM A FIRESIDE TO WHAT BECAME A DINING HALL THAT WOULD ACCOMMODATE 500 HUNGRY DINERS.

DOLLY TALKED CONSTANTLY WHETHER SOMEONE WAS LISTENING OR NOT. SHE ALWAYS HAD LIST OF CHORES TO COMPLETE BEFORE ANY PLAYING WAS ALLOWED. SHE HAD STRONG OPINIONS ABOUT LIFE AND HOW IT WAS TO BE LIVED. DOLLY GAVE LYMAN DIRECTIONS ALL HER LIFE AND HE ADORED HER.

WITH SOME COSTRUCTION HELP LYMAN AND DOLLY BUILT, OVER THE YEARS 1900 TO 1930, A RESORT FACILITY WHICH BECAME WELL KNOWN THROUGHOUT UTAH.

THERE WAS A CAFE-GAS STATION, A DANCE HALL, A TWO-STORY LOG HOME WHICH WAS SHINGLED ON THE OUTSIDE WALLS, THE DINING HALL WITH KITCHEN, A ROOT CELLAR, AN ICE HOUSE, A SECOND SMALLER HOUSE, A FOOTBRIDGE CROSSING THE PROVO, A GENERATOR ROOM AND TWENTY TWO CABINS FOR VACATIONERS. THERE WERE ALSO SOME FISHPONDS AND PLAY AREAS FOR CHILDREN.

LYMAN AND DOLLY HAD FOUR CHILDREN. THE FIRST, A SON AND DAUGHTER, DIED AT BIRTH AND BOTH WERE BURIED ABOUT 30 FEET UP THE MOUNTAIN ACROSS THE RIVER BRIDGE AND

RAILROAD TRACKS. MARGRET, A FIERY REDHEAD WAS BORN IN 1906 AND DOELLAMAE, A QUIET AND STUDIOUS LITTLE GIRL CAME ALONG IN 1908

MARGARET MARRIED PAUL WOLFE AND THEY HAD THREE CHILDREN, DAVID, BARBARA AND DOLLY. LYMAN AND DOLLY AS THEIR OWN SON REARED DAVID AT THE RESORT. MARGARET DIED IN SPOKANE WASHINGTON ONE DAY SHY OF HER 45<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY.

DOELLAMAE MARRIED ERNEST A. WHITE WHO WAS A MORMON AND NOT TOO WELL ACCEPTED BY DOLLY AND LYMAN BECAUSE OF IT. "DODE" AND ERNIE HAD THREE CHILDREN, ERNIE, BRUCE (THAT'S ME) AND JILL. SHE DIED IN SALT LAKE CITY AT THE AGE OF 88.

THERE ARE MANY STORIES ABOUT THE DONNANS DURING THE 10'S - 20'S AND 30'S THAT REINFORCE THE VIEW OF GRANDPA FISHING, THINKING, TALKING CREATION AND

GEOLOGY AND IN GENERAL BEING A LOVING KIND MAN. GRANDMA, AS THE ENTREPRENEURIAL FORCE THAT MADE IT ALL WORK. DOELLAMAE AND MARGARET WERE TUTORED AT HOME BY A GOVERNNESS IN ORDER TO AVOID THE MORMONS.

L.L. DONNAN, BY HARNESSING THE FLOW OF THE UPPER FALLS THROUGH A PIPE, BUILT AN ELECTRICITY GENERATING PLANT TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE RESORT. THIS LED TO YEARS OF LITIGATION WITH UTAH POWER. LYMAN EVENTUALLY WON AND ACQUIRED ALL THE RIGHTS TO THE WATER FROM THE FALLS.

LYMAN AND DOLLY SOLD THE RESORT IN 1948 FOR \$20,000. IT HAS BEEN SAID THE WATER RIGHTS WERE VALUED IN THE 100S OF THOUSANDS. THEY RETIRED TO UPLAND CALIFORNIA



EMANE QUINQUE ANNO

AUTHORS BOOK

## Lyman Donnan, 90, Active For Years, Discusses Start of Life

A man can do a lot of thinking in 90 years. So it is with Lyman Donnan, mining engineer, retired operator and Bible student. Donnan, 87, lives in a small house in the city of Pavo, as a recreation park, we got a good

WRITERS BOOK

Since leaving Utah Mr. Don-  
man's main project has been  
writing a book, "Creation vs. Evo-  
lution", and it is soon to be pub-  
lished.

His thoughts on this subject be-  
gan when he was a mining stu-  
dent. He says he disagreed with  
theories of scientists on the cre-

WILD FLOWERS

They built a charming little home in an orange grove to use as a base between trips. They like traveling and have spent winters for many years traveling and coming to California.

**WILD FLOWERS**

To describe Mr. Donnan as retired scarcely fits the picture of his activities. The Donnans hadn't

“The Book of Genesis is the best account of the creation ever written”, he said adding that his book sets out to prove it.

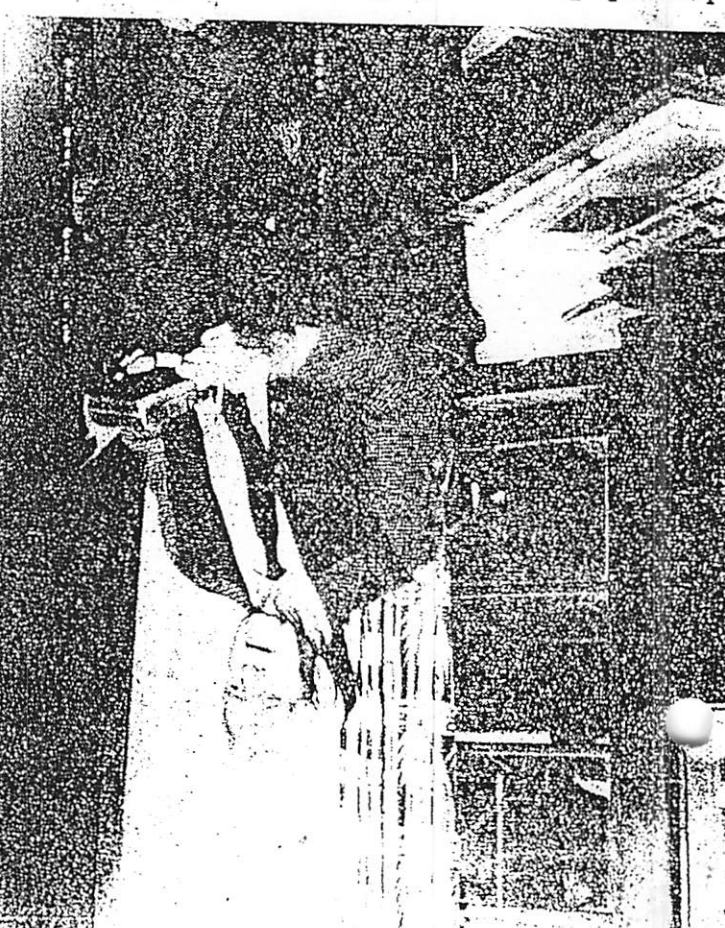
...Life as well as the result of  
...on in space was the result of  
...creative fate", he said. He in-  
...sists there was no solid ground  
...until "...waters divided from wa-  
..."Vapor was the first water",  
...continued. An addition of car-  
...on gas created stones. "This was  
...used by mass attraction, in  
...a common center of a whirling  
...otion. Mass in a pocket of lines  
...force, pressure of molecules and  
...heart combined to create the  
...child."

A graduate of the Missouri school of Mines, he was the engineer in charge of an Arizona mine more than 60 years ago when his health broke. Doctors diagnosed his condition as tuberculosis and told him he could not live.

A graduate of the Missouri school of mines, he was the engineer in charge of an Arizona mine more than 60 years ago when his health broke. Doctors diagnosed his condition as tuberculosis and told him he could not live.

"So we went to Utah", he said. "We homesteaded land in Provo Valley where there were two waterfalls. We built a resort out of the wilderness from the brush". He pointed to a large picture above the mantle and said that was the place. "It was a parawater trout right there", and he pointed to a spot below the falls. "It wasn't as easy as it sounds", he explained. "We were the only company tried to get my water rights and I had to sue to maintain my title. I won and the beau-

Lyman L. Donnann, who lives in retirement here, finds s. any time he spends it in his garden, traveling or Mr. and Mrs. Donnann came here from Utah and de 805 West Ninth St.



W. G. DONNAN.  
W. McA. DONNAN.

[illegible]

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Thomas Bros., Chicago, Ill.

# On the Party Line

With Milly

Those of us who occasionally drive up Provo Canyon have looked at and perhaps stopped at Upper Falls Resort, to enjoy the cool shade and mountain breezes. Newcomers to the area may know that the property now belongs to Provo City, but those who have lived here for a number of years will remember, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Donnan who lived at Upper Falls and managed the property there for some 58 years.

It was our pleasure to visit with both Mr. and Mrs. Donnan, who are in Utah to "enjoy a little fishing on the Provo," said Mrs. Donnan. This sprightly pair, driving their own car, look well and happy and in unusual physical fitness considering the fact that Mr. Donnan is in his 89th year and Mrs. Donnan, her 81st.

First thing Mrs. Donnan said was that "we are very disappointed with the poor condition in which Provo is keeping the resort. Why there was dust thick all over the place."

During the many years the

Donnans lived at Upper Falls it was a bustling hive of activity and a mecca for social groups. They operated some 30 cabins which they rented to mountain-hungry, city folks, longing for a few days rest in the canyons. They also operated a dining room seating 150 which served trout and chicken dinners, famed for miles around. To supply the demand, they maintained their own trout ponds, and not for nothing did Mr. Donnan rate his title of one of the most successful trout fishermen in Utah. They also had their own power plant to furnish electricity for the resort. Family reunion groups and private parties were constantly entertained and regular dances were held, during the summer months. The Donnans comfortable winter home is still standing, although not in the good condition in which they kept it.

Mrs. Donnan told us that it was through Mr. Donnan's efforts that the Bridal Veil Falls, also Silver Thread and Upper Falls were filed on properly some 60

years ago, thus preserving the priceless beauty of the falls for the scenic spot which they are.

Mrs. Donnan continued with her memories, "During the years we were there we fought the liquor problem, not even allowing beer on the grounds."

It was some 60 years ago that a doctor in their Iowa home advised Mr. Donnan to go to a higher altitude for his health. A young married couple at that time, they got on the train and headed west, just where they were going they did not know. Finally arriving in Salt Lake City they remained there for a while until they heard about and purchased the Provo Canyon property. They are the parents of two daughters. One daughter, Margaret died five years ago. The other daughter, Louella May, now Mrs. A. E. White, resides in Denver. Margaret's son, David Wolf, was raised by Mr. and Mrs. Donnan and was acquainted here. He is now a grown man and teaching college in Honolulu, T. H.

Since their retirement some nine years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Donnan have been living in Upland, Cal. "We are very lonesome, however," said this still charming and pretty little woman. "Sometimes we don't know what to do with ourselves, so we travel." They aim to put a minimum of 10 to 16 thousand miles on their car every year. Mrs. Donnan still has a corn field in Iowa and they go out there yearly to see how tall the corn is. Last winter they spent four months in Hawaii with David, and hope to go again this year.

It is always pleasant to visit with people whose roots are still





to do with myself. I can say, well, then  
Lake Springs and here an invitation. I  
haven't seen the folks for quite a while  
anyway and say, "would be nice to drop  
in on 'em" - I guess I'll go. Now they're  
coming on, I mean - who knows - maybe I  
could get Sister Ella to make some extra  
pies while I'm there. I'll never see any  
round here unless I beat the quit. You  
see I have it all fixed up and all  
only wanting a right good opportunity  
to make my application.

I had ~~some~~ an interesting time for  
~~a week or so~~ after I wrote you last. In  
some places in the mountains there are  
2 feet some 15 to 20 + maybe 30 feet of snow.  
Well, we had a couple of days of rain  
and some of this began to come down  
in snow slides. One day there were four  
or five came down. One that came down  
near the section house, 1/2 mile below camp,  
buried the R.R. track 75 feet deep, blocked  
the river for a while, & came within 75 or  
100 feet of the section house. It took the Road  
Master with about 100 men & no less to



two

get the track clear so our train could pass. While they were working on the slide they transferred them for Hubert. The worst feature of them is that they don't give any warning, they come so fast and they have sufficient power to take all the trees & logs & often immense rocks along with them. The duck season opened again on the 1st for 30 days. I went out yesterday and got a few. I gave some to Conductor Sloan & his family. I have the scarlet fever & can't go any farther. I have to travel farther to hunt for them. But the train men are very good and I get on & have them let me off when I want to stop. Nothing is ever said about fare.

Mrs. Starr sent me a nice pie the other day and I have been invited up to take dinner several times but it wasn't convenient to go. We have had a work train and gang of Italians ditching the cuts along in the cañon recently. They expect to stay 30 days or so. I wish they would stay as long as I do, for Valiant the Conductor, is a good fellow.

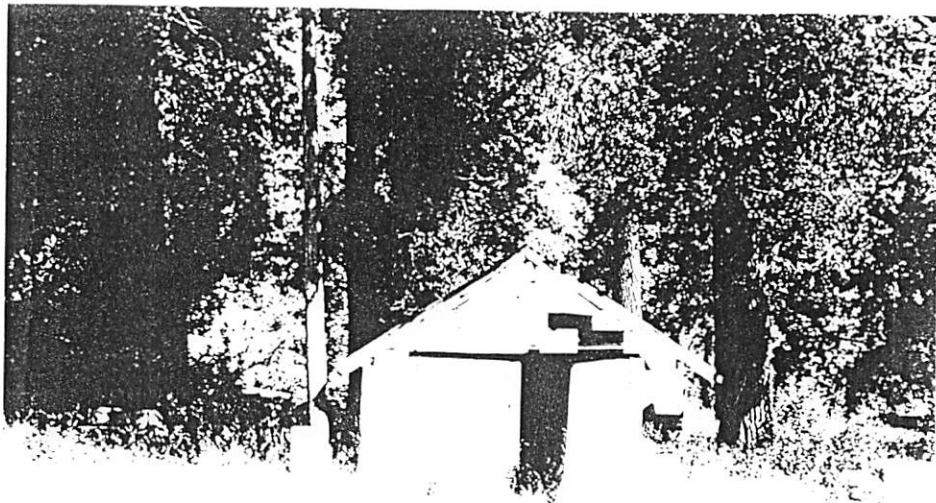


and will pick me up and let me  
off anywhere along the canyon.  
He is a relative of Judge Valdes of  
El Paso, & is a great lover of hunting  
& fishing. He finds quite a little time  
for it, while the "dago's" are  
working. Of course when they are load-  
ing the cars they don't start the engine.  
and it is no easy matter to run up  
or drop back out it, to where ever we want  
to go. I would like to go with

you on your orchestra business, but  
I haven't had my clarinet together for  
some time so I would have to  
practice up a little, I guess.

Too bad that "Pat" died he was  
such a good singer. Will have to  
write the Colonel <sup>your message to</sup> him when next  
I write. Haven't heard from Lyman for  
some time. Think they expect to be back about  
the first of April. His wife wishes it so of  
course she'll do it. Neither of them making  
his health the first consideration. I saw  
letter from you rec'd this A.M. then were all

as usual - Well as ever your old friend



WHAT IS LEFT AT UPPER FALLS PARK YEAR 2000





*Foot Bridge*



*Parking Lot*



Mother & Mark Donnan 1959  
Aug 18th Dec 4th

## Bible's Right, Says Upland Geologist

Reconciliation of the teachings of the Bible and modern science regarding creation and geological evolution has been a lifelong dream of Lyman L. Donnan, 89, of Upland, and today Donnan declares he has the information to prove the Bible is correct. All that remains is for today's scientists to accept it.

A former miner, Donnan was educated at the Missouri School of Mines. It was there that the first doubts arose that sent him on his search.

Donnan could not believe a textbook statement that it had taken 250 billion years to form bituminous coal—not when the Bible's earliest mention was about 6,000 years.

### Formulated Theory

When Donnan went to work in the coal fields of Pittsburgh, he began to formulate the theory which he has incorporated into a geological essay, which soon may be published.

Formation of stratified sand bars in as short a period as six weeks was noted by Donnan in the Ohio River, where the coal was floated to southern markets.

Why then, he asked himself, couldn't geological stratifications of the first days of the world have been caused by large streams of water in the years mentioned by the Bible?

This in itself is a radical departure from current beliefs—that still waters drained away leaving the continents—according to Donnan, who argues that circular gravitation is the natural state of water, not stillness.

"Those sand bars put the question of 'great ages of time' in my mind and it's been there ever since," declares Donnan.

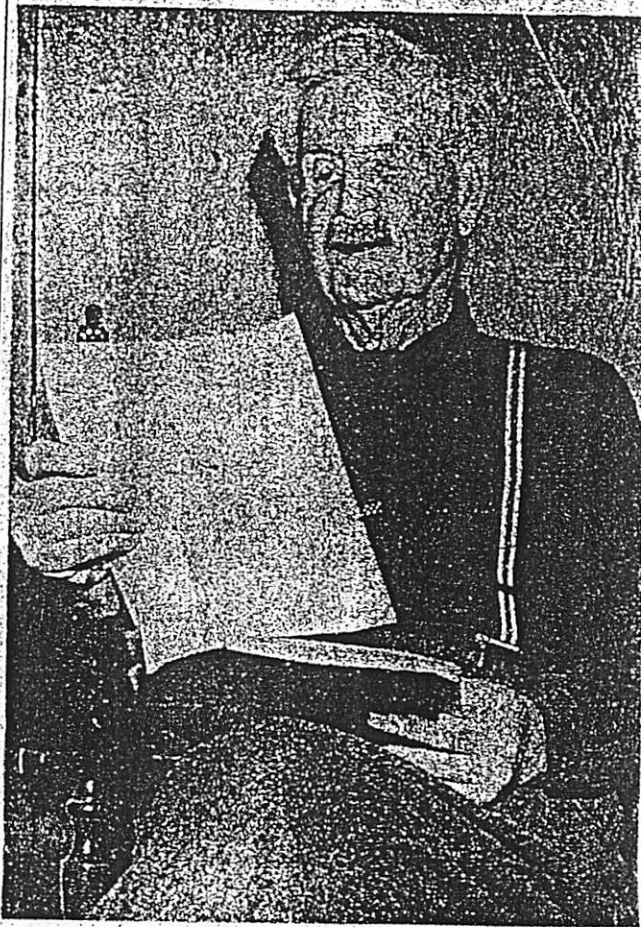
### Contrary to Science

"My theory is so contrary to modern science nobody will publish it," he continues. That's why Donnan is making plans to have it printed himself.

When he wasn't cutting away at rocks or studying river beds, Donnan was supervisor of several silver mines.

Seriously ill and not expected to live, he and his wife, Dolly, moved to Utah, settling and establishing resorts in the Upper Falls and Bridal Veil Falls area in Provo Canyon. They lived there 56 years, spending the winters in California—everywhere from San Francisco south to San Diego.

When the Donnans sold out a few years ago they settled in



**GEOLOGIST SAYS BIBLE RIGHT**—Altho retired, L. L. Donnan of Upland keeps busy with his studies on geological evolution and creation of the world, hoping someday science will accept his theory, which he is readying for publication. Now 89, Donnan feels himself ready for many more years, altho maybe not 50. He and wife, Dolly, both retired, miss their life in mountain country of Utah, their home for 56 years. (P-B photo)

## GEOLOGIST

(Continued from Page 1, Sec. 2)

Bedlands and then in Upland, building their house at 805 W. 9th St.

Donnan was responsible for developing and preserving much of the natural scenery in the Utah resort area. Continuation of his policies was made a legal stipulation when the land was sold and water rights granted from the area.

The 89-year-old man admits that he "doesn't feel as if he's going to pass on right away," altho he's not anticipating another 50 years like the last 50. But he's not going to give up on his evolution theory, at least not until he sees it in print.

The Uplander and his 80-year-old wife find retirement too relaxed for them. Mrs. Donnan vows she's ready to go back to managing a resort; house work's not for her.

They don't stay home much, tho. Often they take two- or three-months trips to their farm in Iowa. They go fishing on Lytle Creek or the Colorado River (Donnan claims he can always catch a fish when nobody else can—that's what earned him the title of best fisherman in Utah), or they take trips to such places as the Hawaiian Islands, last year's high spot.

When they are at their Upland home they keep busy with their lemon grove and their yard. There's always a stack of wood in back for the fireplace—sawed and chopped by Donnan himself.

"I haven't had to hire anybody yet," he says, modestly adding, "I guess that's pretty good."